

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

October 7, 2013

www.op97.org

Important Dates

Picture Day	October 7
Fall Conferences	Week of October 7 (half day of school for students Thursday and Friday)
Walk to School Day	October 9

Dear Families,

Outdoor Education

Please be sure to return the yellow health form for our Outdoor Ed trip to Loreda Taft. If you are interested in serving as a chaperone, you will need to schedule fingerprinting at the District 97 offices as soon as possible. Please let us know if you are interested.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to begin practicing keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th grade artists learned about the three types of balance--symmetrical, asymmetrical and radial balance. We focused on radial balance. Radial balance has a center axis and the design radiates from the center and repeats around the axis. We found radial balance in nature in flowers and starfish and also found it in human made objects like bike wheels, pinwheels and clocks. Our artwork uses our name, radially balanced and repeated eight times to create a colorful, unique, abstract, radial design.

Music - This past week, we listened to the oldest notated melody found in the world (from 1400 B.C.E in Syria). We also started our Orff (xylophone) unit and learned the song "Don't let the Wind". 5K is featured on Three Ring this week performing the song. 5M will perform the song with additional parts next week. **We will start recorders this week.** Students need to bring in their recorders. I will have notices for the students who have never played or need to purchase a recorder in class. All parents with email addresses listed with the school should have received an email from me about [setting up a free Three Ring account](#) so that I can share recordings of your children's performances. This will be my form of a newsletter for the year. If your email is not listed or you did not receive an email, please email me at akaria@op97.org if you are interested in receiving this communication.

Chorus - Our first performance will be Saturday, November 23rd at the Oak Park Arms. The notice

was sent home last week. If your child did not get it, I will have extras in my room on Wednesday. We will be singing at the end of the year at a Chicago Sky (women's basketball) game at half time. The date is TBD because the season dates will not be decided on till January. I will need some parental help with this performance. If you are interested in being a chorus parent please email me at akaria@op97.org. **You will be receiving an email regarding our first performance by Tuesday October 8th. If you do not receive it, please email me at akaria@op97.org.**

Spanish - All fifth grade classes have finished their first unique class story. They are working on completing illustrations and will be acting the stories out in class this week. Students can read their stories at home for an extra 10 puntos! They will be posted to the blog this week at <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - This week we will be reviewing how to use the library catalog to find books. Did you know you can access our school's catalog from the library homepage? Go to the homepage (listed below), click on library catalogs, then choose Holmes. To practice using the catalog, check out the scavenger hunt I have on the homepage. **RO UPDATE:** There will be a mandatory, 15 minute meeting during recess this week for Reading Olympics participants. Please meet in the library at 12:15! The library page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>); or to email me with questions mmaneck@op97.org . As always...happy reading!

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

Our October novel study is beginning! Every 5th grader in the district will be reading *Bud, Not Buddy*. Your student will be able to borrow this book. Please help your student be responsible for their book so it can be returned when they are done reading. This week we will learn about the background history of the Depression era when this book takes place and begin reading the first chapters.

Writing

Students will use some of the weekly writing time to revise, edit and publish some of their writing pieces. In addition, students will log on to Custom Typing to begin practicing keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home.

Math

Mid-module assessments have been graded and will be returned to parents/guardians at parent-teacher conferences. Last week, students followed specific steps to estimate quotients. We began by rounding the divisor and then finding a multiple of the rounded divisor close to the dividend. Rounding the divisor first 'feels backwards' for some students, but this method makes it simpler to estimate a quotient. This skill will be helpful this week as we begin working with the standard algorithm (long division), and we will continue working on estimating in this manner. We will finish our week with a short quiz covering division with one- and two-digit divisors.

Science

This week, students will have time to complete reading and annotating in their science workbooks. They also will work on finding a research topic by looking through science website. You can help your student by visiting the fifth-grade wiki science page, which includes many helpful links to science resources. The final research paper will be due November 7.

Social Studies

This is the last week of our first unit, Our Nation and Its Resources. We will develop slogans to support our views on important ways we can help be responsible for our resources. These will be placed on Whole Foods bags and used in the store. Stay tuned to hear the day you can go into the store and see our bags in use!

Please check the Wiki to see when it is your student's week to be a reporter for our Current events project and present a current event he/she finds important and relevant. All the materials are available on our Wiki (<http://5k-socialstudies.wikispaces.com/home>).

Spelling/Word Study

We have completed our individualized spelling diagnostic. We will continue to learn and practice our weekly word work routine.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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